

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6203

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1673

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PORG, EI, FR

SUBJECT: IRISH IMPRESSED BY FRENCH VISIT

1. VISIT OF FRENCH PM CHIRAC AND FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES TO DUBLIN NOVEMBER 14/15 WENT WELL, WITH IRISH PUBLIC SHOWING APPROPRIATE INTEREST. CHIRAC CONTINUED TO STRIKE THE RIGHT CHORDS. NEAR END OF VISIT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEET FONMIN FITZGERALD'S DEMAND FOR AN EC REGIONAL FUND, CHIRAC SUGGESTED A "TEMPORARY" FUND THAT WOULD APPLY ONLY TO IRELAND AND ITALY AS PRIORITY AREAS. THIS, HE EXPLAINED, WOULD MAKE A BEGINNING ON MOST URGENT REGIONAL PROBLEMS, WHILE AVOIDING A HEAVY NEW EXPENSE FOR EC AT A BAD TIME. FONMIN FITZGERALD WELCOMED THIS AS A "CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION." HE HAS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT EC SUMMIT MUST COME TO TERMS WITH PROBLEM OF REGIONAL FUND, AND HE HAS NOT LIFTED HIS THREAT OF AN IRISH VETO.

2. ONE LOCAL PAPER HAS BEGUN TO REFER TO A "FRANCO-IRISH
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ENTENTE" WITHIN EC, PERHAPS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CHIRAC VISIT.

3. WE DO NOT HAVE FORMAL GOI REACTION TO VISIT, AS GOVT IS TIED UP IN PREPARATIONS FOR IRISH PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL. IRISH ARE UNDOUBTEDLY GRATIFIED, BUT FONMIN FITZGERALD IS CLEARLY NO SO OVERWHELMED BY FRENCH ATTENTION THAT HE IS WILLING TO GIVE UP ON IRISH POLICY AIMS. PROBABLY IRISH REMAIN DISPOSED TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH ON ISSUES THAT SEEM MARGINAL TO NATIONAL INTEREST.

4. BRITISH EMASSY TOLD US THEY THOUGHT HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH VISIT TO DUBLIN WAS AIMED AT SECURING ONE FAIRLY RELIABLE ALLY IN EC COUNCILS-- EVEN IF THAT ALLY IS AS SMALL AS IRELAND.

5. FRENCH VISIT DEMONSTRATED ONE PROBLEM THAT IRISH ENCOUNTER IN EC SUMMITRY: WHILE FONMIN FITZGERALD IS ABLE TO COPE AT ANY LEVEL, PM COSGRAVE APPEARS OUT OF HIS DEPTH WHEN HE LEAVES IRISH POLITICS. HE CAN, OF COURSE, GIVE NECESSARY TOASTS AND SPEECHES, BUT HE ALLOWED FITZGERALD TO DOMINATE THE SHOW.
MOORE

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